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The Lincoln Centennial.

CELEBRATION OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH
OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN, FEBRUARY 12, 1909.

The 12th day of February, 1909, will be the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

It is most fitting that the citizens of the United States of America; the citizens of the state of Kentucky, which gave him birth; the people of the state of Indiana, in which he sojourned a few years and where lie the remains of his patient and heroic mother and where live the descendants of the friends of his lonely childhood; and especially that the citizens of the State of Illinois to the service of which the first years of his manhood were given, in which his first vote was cast, his service in the Black Hawk War, in the General Assembly of the State, which he represented in the halls of the Congress of the United States; and by the people of the city of Springfield, the little city which was his home during the years of his manhood, where he was married, where his children were born, and where three of them lie buried, where he planned the noble fight for the equality of human beings, where he received the news of his nomination for the presidency and of his election to that high office, where his dead form was received by loving friends, and where he, with his wife and children, now lies sleeping.

Here is still the little house "the Lincoln Home," the gift to the State of Illinois and the nation, of Mr. Robert T. Lincoln, the only surviving child of Mr. Lincoln, this little plain house which is now a shrine for the people of the world, and is yearly visited by thousands; here too is the stately tomb of this great martyr-hero, where his sacred dust reposes.

It is most fitting then, that all the people of the United States unite in a commemoration of this great historic day.

An hundred years have passed since he first saw the light of day in the little Kentucky cabin, a hundred years, the history of which he helped to mould.

Governor Charles S. Deneen in a message to the last General Assembly of the State called attention to the approach of this great birthday anniversary, and the State Legislature, by a joint resolution, recommended that it be observed in a fitting manner by the people of Illinois.

Each of the two great political parties embodied in its platform resolutions suggesting that the people of the country observe it by celebrations commensurate with its historic significance.

The city of Springfield is properly taking the lead in the matter of the celebration, the details of which are not completed. The French Ambassador at Washington, M. J. J. Jusserand, is to make the principal address, though there will be many other orators of distinction.

The various patriotic societies will take part. The Springfield Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution will hold exercises at the Lincoln Home, and it is expected that Mrs. Donald McLean, the president general of the organization, will be present.

The Illinois State Historical Society will, of course, do its part. As the day of the birthday, February 12, will be so full of important functions, it is now expected that the Historical Society will have its rooms open to the public on the day and evening of the 11th, the day before the great, general celebration, that the visitors may inspect the collection of *Lincolniana* which the library and society has gathered. Efforts will be made to have this collection arranged in such a manner as to be most interesting and to afford the greatest amount of information.

Full details of the general plans for the celebration and the special plans of the Illinois State Historical Society will be published in the January issue of the *Journal*.

Many suggestions have been made as to a permanent memorial of Lincoln's hundredth birthday anniversary, by newspapers, periodicals and individuals.

It has been suggested that a splendid building be erected in Chicago, after the idea of the Albert Memorial in London. A plan for making the Lincoln residence in Springfield the center of a beautiful park has been received with much favor.

In the September number of the *Review of Reviews* is published an article by Mr. James T. McCleavy entitled "What Shall the Lincoln Memorial Be?"

Mr. McCleavy's article is illustrated with views of the principal memorials of the world, and he considers several of the suggestions which have been made for the Lincoln memorial.

The plan which he considers the best of all is the one of building a beautiful highway from the White House at Washington to the Gettysburg battlefield, a distance of seventy-two miles, to be called the *Lincoln Way*.

This is a fine idea and seems in every way to be practicable. There is another plan, however, of which little mention has been made, and that is the building of a beautiful Lincoln temple at Springfield, to become the property of the State of Illinois, and which might be a hall of history, in which the Illinois State Historical Society, and its collections of State and National history could find a home, and in which could be gathered such a collection of manuscripts, portraits, books and other material relating to Abraham Lincoln as could be found in no other place in the world.

It is hoped that the members of the Historical Society will give this plan due consideration and use their influence for it, if they consider it desirable and practicable.